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*O. E. S. Library*

MEMORANDUM  
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### LEAFLETS THREE - LET IT BE

Poison ivy and poison oak, which is another form of the same plant, are found in practically all sections of the country. They are easily recognized, once one knows that the leaves are always divided into three leaflets, dark and usually shiny green on the upper surface. The berries or fruit are whitish, waxy looking, somewhat like mistletoes berries. Not all poison ivy plants have berries but they all have three leaflets to each leaf.

Poison oak grows in much the same way except that the leaves are shaped more like oak leaves. There's an old saying, "Leaflets three - let it be," which is worth remembering when you are suspicious of any plant, suggests \_\_\_\_\_,  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Institution)

Poison sumac is a different plant with much the same effect on the human skin - causing painful inflammation and often serious illness. Poison sumac leaves grow in long sprays with 7 to 13 leaflets, arranged in pairs opposite each other. The flower clusters are yellowish green and are followed by shining ivory-white or cream-colored fruits similar to those of poison ivy. This plant is quite different from harmless sumac with its red fruits in spikes.

If you've been exposed to poison ivy in any of its forms or to poison sumac, wash the exposed surfaces of the skin as promptly as possible with hot water and strong kitchen soap - the kind containing excess alkali. Make an abundant heavy lather, rinse off completely, and repeat at least three or four times. Give the hands especial attention, particularly the fingernails and the tender skin between the fingers. But don't scrub with a stiff brush, as that may rub in the poison. You can use several wash cloths, discarding each in turn.

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Farmers' Bulletin 1166-F tells how to eradicate poison ivy and poison sumac and what to do if accidentally poisoned by either. You can get a free copy by writing to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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